

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is in response to the Final Office Action dated October 31, 2008. Claims 16-55 are pending. Claims 15-23, 25-35, 37-46, and 48-55 are rejected. Claims 16, 21, 23, 28, 33, 35, 39, 44, and 46 have been amended. Claims 24, 36, and 47 have been cancelled. Accordingly, claims 15-23, 25-35, 37-46, and 48-55 remain pending in the present application.

This application is under final rejection. Applicant has presented arguments hereinbelow that Applicant believes should render the claims allowable. In the event, however, that the Examiner is not persuaded by Applicant's arguments, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner enter the amendments to clarify issues upon appeal.

In the above-identified Final Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 24, 36, and 47 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that claims 24, 36, and 47 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant welcomes the Examiner's indication that claims 24, 36, and 47 include allowable subject matter. Applicant has amended claims 16, 28, and 39 to include the limitations of claims 24, 36, and 47, respectively. There are no intervening claims. Consequently, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 24, 36, and 47 are allowable as currently presented.

Applicant has also amended claims 21, 33, and 44 to correct a minor grammatical error. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to claims 21, 33, and 44 do not introduce new matter and do not require a new search.

Applicant has also amended claims 23, 35, and 46 to harmonize these claims with

the amendments to claims 16, 28, and 39, respectively. In particular, claims 23, 35, and 46 have been amended to ensure that the terms have proper antecedent basis. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to claims 23, 35, and 46 do not introduce new matter and do not require a new search.

Claims 17-23, 25-27, and 50-51 depend upon independent claim 16. Claims 29-35, 37-38, and 52-53 depend upon independent claim 28. Claims 40-46, 48-49, and 54-55 depend upon independent claim 39. As discussed above, independent claims 16, 28, and 39 are already allowable. Consequently, any claims depending upon claims 16, 28, and 39 would also be allowable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 17-23, 25-27, 29-35, 37-38, 40-46, and 48-55 are allowable as currently presented.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that claims 16-23, 25-35, 37-46, and 48-55 are allowable over the cited references. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and passage to issue of claims 16-23, 25-35, 37-46, and 48-55 as now presented.

Applicants' attorney believes this application in condition for allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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